



COVID- 19 RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Testing Sites](#) – attached flyer

[Presentation](#) by Dr. Benjamin Schwartz, Director of Epidemiology and Population Health at Fairfax County Health Department.

[Temporary Shelter During COVID-19](#): Call the Fairfax County Health Department Call Center if you have questions about whether you meet the criteria for the Quarantine, Protection, Isolation/ Decompression (QPID) shelter Program **703-267-3511**.

Fairfax County residents who are in need of basic needs call Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) **703-222-0880 (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays)**. You can also visit the Human Services Resource Guide (HSRG) at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hstrg/>, an online, searchable guide to available health and human services resources in Fairfax County.

The Department of Family Services is offering [Assistance from a Distance](#), and many [Fairfax County services](#) are offered online or on the phone.

Food Resource Map can be found [HERE](#) in Spanish and English

Fairfax County Health Department [COVID-19 Tools for the Fairfax Community](#) you will find weekly communication tools for you to share. You can also visit the For COVID-19 case data visit [COVID-19 Case Dashboard](#).

CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY

Fairfax County Government now has Spanish-language [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

[“Connect with County Leaders” Podcast](#) — County Executive Bryan Hill discusses COVID-19 vaccine, social justice and police reform.

NEW: Fairfax County Chief of Police Recruitment Your input is needed to help identify key characteristics, skills, traits, and issues to consider in the hiring process. Please share this within your organizations, networks, and community. **The deadline to complete this survey is January 8, 2021.** The survey is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

[Virginia Survey of Families with Young Children](#) The University of Virginia (UVA), Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) hope to learn about Virginia families’ experiences this year with the care for and/or education of their young children (birth through kindergarten). Share the [flyer](#) with families and/or take the Virginia [Survey](#) of Families with Young Children today!

FCPS Adult ESOL Program Offers English and Employment-Focused Classes for Adults starting January 2021

If you know anyone who is in need of English language instruction that will support them in reaching their employment, training, or academic goals, please see the following specialty classes that FCPS Adult ESOL Program will be offering in its Winter 2021 term. For more information, contact MaryAnn Cunningham Florez at macunningham@fcps.edu. Registration for most classes closes **January 12, 2021**.

- **English for Employment Success** (T/Th, 7:00-9:15pm, Jan. 26-March 18, 2021) gives higher level speakers (high intermediate and above) the opportunity to refine their vocabulary, grammar and general communication skills while addressing career exploration and planning strategies, skills for finding and applying for jobs, and developing employability skills that meet expectations of the U.S. workplace.
- **Microsoft Office Integrated Applications with MOS PowerPoint Certification** (M/W, 7:00-9:00pm, Jan. 25-March 24, 2021) is a unique opportunity for students to expand their basic Microsoft Office skills and prepare and obtain MOS Certification in PowerPoint. The class will give students hands-on experience integrating basic Microsoft Office applications (Word and Excel) and obtain certification in PowerPoint—tools that they can use to support their ongoing post-secondary academic and/or employment training goals. The class is structured specifically for English language learners with pacing and support specific to their needs.
- **Conversation High Intermediate Plus Online** (Saturdays, 9:00-11:15am, Jan. 30-March 27, 2021) supports higher level speakers in developing fluency and confidence, expanding their vocabularies, and developing communication strategies (expressing opinions, responding appropriately and effectively to others) for successful personal and professional interactions. *Note: A face-to-face section of this class is also planned for Wednesdays, 7:00-9:15pm at our Plum Center location, Jan. 27-March 17, 2021.*
- **American English Pronunciation Online** (Saturdays, 9:00-11:15am, Jan. 30-March 27, 2021) provides higher level speakers with the opportunity to focus on improving their pronunciation and improve the clarity of their communication. Instruction focuses on such areas as accented speech sounds, intonation patterns, and common pronunciation errors that interfere with clear communication and can contribute to misunderstandings.

FCPS Adult ESOL Program also offers general English classes at 6 proficiency levels to support adults in developing English language skills for life, work, and ongoing learning.

The Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) is offering many classes at the beginning of the new year!

Any entrepreneurs out there interested in the food industry? The FEC is offering a [Food Entrepreneur](#) class series presented by *La Cocina VA* on January 4, from 6 pm – 7:30 pm Virtually.

Do you owe taxes and need help? [Virtual Tax Debt Relief Clinics](#), presented by *Legal Services of Northern Virginia*, on Thursday, January 21, from 1 pm – 3 pm.

Interested in a job in healthcare? Excited to start a career with a strong labor market demand? Attend an [Avenues to Career Training: Information Sessions](#), Tuesdays & Thursdays, January 5 - 21 at 1 pm, Virtual through Zoom. Let us help you prepare for the medical certification that you want.

You and Your Student Loan, Tuesday, January 26, at 6 pm. Join us to see what the future might hold for the repayment of student loans.

To register for any of the FEC classes, please click [here](#) or call our office at (703)704-6101!



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To request reasonable ADA accommodations, please contact 703-324-4600, TTY 711.

Faith Communities in Action is supported by the
[Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services](#)



Advancing Race and Social Equity

[Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano has announced his office's latest reforms to the County's criminal justice system](#)

Goal of curbing mass incarceration and prioritizing alternative interventions that have proven more equitable and effective than the exclusive use of imprisonment to fight crime.

CA Descano's landmark sentencing policy bans the use of mandatory minimums in plea deals aside from a select few offenses where state law severely limits the flexibility of local prosecutors. It also requires prosecutors to seek alternative sentences to incarceration whenever state guidance provides for such an option and to forgo unilaterally charging youth as adults. Further, the policy commits the office to seek pretrial agreements with defendants in appropriate cases that allow for their records to be cleared and hard time avoided upon achieving rehabilitative benchmarks. Additionally, CA Descano's policy instructs prosecutors to no longer charge felonies for minor offenses where justice can be equally served through misdemeanor charges that limit collateral consequences. Finally, the reform package requires prosecutors to tailor probation lengths to the actual needs of every case and abstain from reflexively seeking excessive probation periods that lack a specific rehabilitative goal.

Goal of significantly limiting the use of pre-trial detention while ensuring the community's safety.

CA Descano formalized his office's commitment to not seek cash bail, a practice he initiated immediately after taking office in January. He also announced that his office will seek alternatives to pre-trial detention for defendants who do not pose a danger to the community or a flight risk. These determinations will be made based on a comprehensive analysis of each defendant's unique circumstances. CA Descano affirmed that the office will ensure that no single tool is mechanically followed in this analysis to safeguard against the potential for embedded racial bias.

Read CA Descano's recent oped in the Washington Post on bail reform [here](#)

Edu- Futuro Families Reunite Program

Online program in Spanish - 3 Sessions

If you recently brought your child/children from your country, and would like to improve your communication and have a healthy and loving relationship with him/her, this program is for you and your family! Connect virtually and meet other parents that go through similar situations like yours! Improve your relationship with your children and your quality of life!

Classes: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. January 25th, 27th and 28th from 6:00pm-8:00pm . After attending all sessions, every participant will get a certificate of completion and a gift card. Register [here](#) For more information contact Maria Mateus: maria@edu-futuro.org or 571-762-0335.

Health and Wellness

The Fairfax County Community Services Board (CSB) has nearly two dozen [peer support programs](#) . Additional peer supports to help people make connections and get emotional support are [Virginia Copes Warm Line](#), from Mental Health America of Virginia (also available at <https://vacopes.com/>) and [Local Warm Line](#), from Recovery Program Solutions of Virginia

NEW Stories from the Black Community - authentic stories of healing, recovery and resilience from the Black community, by This is My Brave [Volume 1](#), Monday, January 18, 7-8:30 pm [Volume 2](#), Monday, February 1, 7-8:30 pm

Dementia Friendly Fairfax envisions our community as a place where people living with dementia and their care partners will be able to engage in a variety of activities, be supported in the highest quality of life, and can live independently for as long as possible. For more information and to register visit [InsightMCC.org/dementiafriendly](https://insightmcc.org/dementiafriendly) or email Lindsey Vajpeyi at lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org. Sessions include:

- **5 WAYS TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR BRAIN** FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2:00 –3:00PM
- **BECOME A DEMENTIA FRIEND!** FRIDAY, JANUARY 22 2:00 –3:00PM
- **WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP: RESOURCES IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29 2:00 –3:00PM

Common Ground

A Newsletter for the Interfaith Community

Community Bulletin Board

The following public announcements are for interfaith meetings and activities sponsored by organizations within the community and are not specifically endorsed or sponsored by Fairfax County. These announcements are provided as a public service in the interest of expanding interfaith dialogue and goodwill. If you have an announcement you would like to share, please contact NCsinterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov

Interfaith Communities for Dialogue (ICD) is presenting a series of 4 virtual workshops on Racism and Systemic Bias, two of which were held in recent months. On Sunday, January 31, from 4-6 PM, ICD will hold the third workshop in the series: Systemic Racism in Health and Housing. Please join us. You will receive a link to the Zoom meeting when you [REGISTER](#) ***hold the date for the final workshop: March 7, 2021: Building Bridges to Racial Equity.* For questions or more information, email: interfaithcd@gmail.com

Sun Jan 31, 2021 7th Annual Imam, Rabbi, Leadership Colleague Summit - This year Virtual
Grappling with Current Affairs, Studying Ancient Texts, and Building Active Partnerships for the Future
January 31, 2021 1:00pm register [HERE](#)

[The Jewish Community Relations Council \(JCRC\)](#) Student to Student has created a structure that brings together teens from different faiths for conversation. This unique peer education opportunity for high school students focuses on increasing mutual respect, understanding, and reducing bigotry. Each 1.5 hour session will include 30 minutes of group presentations including questions and answers, followed by small teen facilitated breakout groups for discussion. At a time of increased polarization, it is critical that we bring together young people to share and learn from one another. **Participation is free and requires minimal staff time to implement.** Partnering organizations will need to provide: 10-20 High School teens to participate in one live virtual 1.5 hour session. Preparation of a peer led presentation about life as a teen in your faith community. For more information please reach out to Sara Winkelman, JCRC Director of Education, Programs, & Services at swinkelman@jcouncil.org or her cell 314.583.4398.

[Virginia Interfaith Center](#) The General Assembly begins on January 13. Our traditional advocacy day, called Day for All People, will now be a week of action – January 18-22 with fabulous speakers, workshops and a prayer vigil urging abolition of the death penalty. [Sign up here.](#)

[The Ethiopian Community Development Council](#) is looking for members of the faith community to support refugees that are living in Fairfax County. This program is called Community Sponsorship, in Community Sponsorship, groups handle a significant number of resettlement tasks. Groups secure affordable housing, collect furniture and other household items, and help refugees access public benefits (HUSKY/ Medicaid, SNAP/food stamps, and TFA/cash assistance for eligible families). Groups also enroll children in school, facilitate job searches, and perform other necessary tasks. If you are interested please contact Clare Mountfort at CMountfort@ecdCUS.org



Faith Communities
in Action